

RES17-055

Wilmington, Delaware
September 7, 2017

#4397

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Chukwuocha**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
President
Shabazz**

**Council
Members
Dixon
Freel
Oliver
Walsh
McCoy**

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump has proposed to divert \$54 billion from human and environmental spending at home and abroad in order to increase the military budget, bringing military spending to well over 60% of federal discretionary spending; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2017, the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed resolutions urging Congress “to move our tax dollars in exactly the opposite direction proposed by the President, from militarism to human and environmental needs”; urging city governments “to pass a resolution calling on our federal legislators and the U.S. government to move significant funds away from the military budget to human needs”; and urging each city “to send a copy of the resolution passed to its federal legislators with a request that they respond with their plans to reduce the military budget in favor of the human needs budget”; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers in Wilmington are already paying \$92.72 million per year in federal taxes for the Department of Defense (not including the cost of war); this amount could fund locally, for one year, 185 infrastructure jobs, 139 clean energy jobs, 122 elementary school teachers, 103 supported employment opportunities in high poverty communities, healthcare for 1,780 low-income adults, healthcare for 3,065 low-income children, Pell grants of \$5,815 for 442 students, 1,418 preschool seats for children in Head Start, and solar panels to provide electricity to 6,903 households; and

WHEREAS, economists at the University of Massachusetts have documented that military spending is an economic drain rather than a jobs program; and

WHEREAS, our community's human and environmental needs are critical, and our ability to respond to those needs depends on federal funding for education, welfare, public safety, and infrastructure maintenance, transit and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposal would reduce foreign aid and diplomacy, which help to prevent wars and the victimization of people who become refugees in our community; and

WHEREAS, 121 retired U.S. generals have written a letter opposing these cuts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council urges the United States Congress, and our legislators in particular, to reject the proposal to cut funding for human and environmental needs in favor of military budget increases, and in fact to begin moving in the opposite direction, to increase funding for human and environmental needs and reduce the military budget.

Passed by City Council,
September 7, 2017

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 6th
day of September, 2017.

Elizabeth D. Power
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution urges the United States Congress, and Delaware's federal representatives in particular, to oppose proposed funding cuts for human and environmental needs in the federal budget in favor of military spending increases. This Resolution supports reversing such funding proposals to expand allocations for human and environmental needs through reductions in military spending.